

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW

SUBJ: ECG - PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF THE US CONCERNING
ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF AD HOC GROUP ON ENRICHED
URANIUM SUPPLY

1. PLEASE INFORM MEMBERS OF ECG AD HOC WORKING GROUP THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE ECG AT ITS APRIL 3 AND 4 MEETING, THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ENRICHED URANIUM WILL HOLD ITS INITIAL MEETING, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. DIXY LEE RAY, IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICES OF THE US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (1717 H STREET, N.W.) ON MONDAY, APRIL 22, STARTING AT 10:00 AM. THOSE MEMBERS OF THE ECG DESIRING TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INDICATING THE NAMES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFILIATIONS OF THEIR PARTICIPANTS.

2. IN THE INTEREST OF EXPEDITING THE COURSE OF THE WORK AND, RECOGNIZING THAT THIS INITIAL MEETING WILL BE LARGELY ORGANIZATIONAL IN NATURE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS TO THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS AS TO HOW THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP MIGHT PROCEED. THESE ARE OUR PRELIMINARY IDEAS AND WE WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS EITHER AT OR BEFORE THE MEETING.

3. WE WOULD EXPECT THE AD HOC GROUP TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON THE JOINT PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN PARA B OF ECG/6. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY THE KINDS OF DISCUSSIONS THAT SHOULD BE INAUGURATED AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL, AS WELL AS THE TYPES OF INFORMATION AND COOPERATIVE MECHANISMS WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL IN HELPING THE PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS COORDINATE THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND PLANS. ANY COMMENTS THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE ON OUR ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF TOPICS AS SET FORTH IN PARA B OF ECG/6 WILL BE WELCOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AT THE APRIL 22 MEETING.

4. CONCERNING THE SUGGESTED LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE US BELIEVES THAT THE AD HOC GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER TWO MAJOR SUBHEADINGS IN EVALUATING THE FURTHER TYPES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL. THESE ARE: CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE INSTALLATION OF NEW ENRICHMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAPACITY AND CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE ASSURED SUPPLY OF NATURAL URANIUM. THE AREA OF ENRICHMENT OBVIOUSLY IS OF GREAT CURRENT INTEREST SINCE IMPORTANT DECISIONS HAVE TO BE TAKEN REGARDING THE CHOICE OF THE BEST TECHNOLOGY TO ASSURE TIMELY CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPACITY. WE ALSO ARE EMPHASIZING NATURAL URANIUM SINCE ITS AVAILABILITY CAN BE AS IMPORTANT AS THE AVAILABILITY OF ENRICHING CAPACITY IN ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM. MOREOVER, MANY OF THE JOINT

PLANNING TOPICS WE HAVE SUGGESTED IN ECG/6 (SUPPLY AND DEMAND PROJECTIONS MARKET ACCESS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, ETC.) ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO NATURAL URANIUM AS WELL AS ENRICHMENT; ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT DIFFERENT SPECIALISTS AND COUNTRIES MAY BE INVOLVED IN EACH TOPIC.

5. WITH THE FOREGOING THOUGHTS IN MIND, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO PREPARE AND CONSIDER TWO DETAILED LISTS OF TOPICS - ONE CONCERNING NATURAL URANIUM AND THE OTHER ENRICHMENT - THAT MIGHT BE THE USEFUL SUBJECT OF ON-GOING SYSTEMATIC EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION, DISCUSSIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.

6. DURING THE APRIL 22 MEETING, THE PARTICIPANTS MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THERE WOULD BE MERIT IN APPOINTING TWO SUB-GROUPS (ONE FOR NATURAL URANIUM SUPPLY AND ONE FOR ENRICHMENT) TO:

A. GO OVER THESE SUGGESTED LISTS OF TOPICS WITH THE VIEW OF AGREEING ON THOSE THAT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUING EXCHANGES.

B. MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA II OF ECG/7 AS TO WHETHER ANY NEW COOPERATIVE MECHANISMS IN THESE AREAS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND,

C. DEVELOP AND RECOMMEND ANY GENERAL PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD GOVERN FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE AREAS (PARA 888 OF ECG/7).

THE US, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD HOPE THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD CONSIDER AT AN EARLY STAGE (AND POSSIBLY AT THE APRIL
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